

Remarks

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in the patent application. For the reasons and arguments set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is allowable over the cited references.

In the instant Office Action dated September 17, 2007, the following rejection is noted: claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (Background and Figures 1 and 2) over Wise *et al.* (U.S. Patent Pub. 2004/0025000).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 1-16 because the cited portions of the Wise reference do not correspond to the claimed invention which includes, for example, a plurality of auxiliary elements that are configured to be selectively coupled between a pair of core pipeline elements to process data as it traverses between the pair of core elements. The Office Action cites to Wise's control/data tokens which do not correspond to the claimed auxiliary elements. The Office Action also improperly asserts that Wise teaches coupling these tokens between core pipeline elements to process data as it traverses between the core elements. The Wise reference teaches that the tokens consist of one or more words of binary digital data and that the tokens are used to distribute data and control information throughout the system. *See, e.g.*, paragraphs 0375 and 0377. The tokens are used to communicate information between the stages in a pipeline structure. *See, e.g.*, Figure 1 and paragraphs 0380-0382. Wise's tokens do not process data as it passes between pipeline stages, but instead Wise's tokens are data that is passed between the pipeline stages. Per paragraphs 0036-0039, Wise's tokens are not themselves processing stages that can be selectively coupled between a pair of stages in the pipeline to process data as it passes between the pair of stages. Thus, Wise's tokens do not correspond to the auxiliary elements of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 1-16 is improper and Applicant requests that it be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks above, Applicant believes that each of the rejections has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the agent overseeing the application file, John Rehberg, of NXP Corporation at (408) 474-9061 (or the undersigned).

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